



# San Antonio Police Department

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## ***NEWS RELEASE***

### ***Police Helicopter Makes Emergency Landing***

On 02-19-04, at approximately 2:38am, San Antonio Police Helicopter Pilots Edward Ramirez and Michael Welborn were responding to a police pursuit, which was occurring on West Patrol. The Pilots took flight from Stinson Airfield, which is where the police helipad is located. After approximately one minute in flight, and while traveling in a northwest bound direction, the Pilots heard several loud “bangs” and then immediately noticed several of the aircraft instruments indicating a serious problem. Officer Ramirez, who was piloting the aircraft, immediately turned back towards the airport. Officer Ramirez reports that the aircraft then lost all power and took action for an emergency landing. Officer Ramirez placed the aircraft in a “auto-rotation”, which utilizes the air to bring the aircraft down. As Officer Ramirez was coming down into the HEB parking lot, located at Pleasanton Rd. and S/W Military Drive, he noticed several power lines and had to go over one line and then immediately under another, all without engine power. The aircraft suffered a hard landing sustaining extensive damage. Officer Ramirez and Welborn were able to unfasten themselves from the aircraft and get out with minor injuries. The Fire Dept. was called to the scene for a possible fire and EMS was called and transported the Officers to area hospitals, where they were later released.

The pursuit the helicopter was responding to resulted in an arrest of a lone suspect, who was later charged with Aggravated Assault on a Police Officer, Possession of Marijuana, DWI, and Evading Arrest.

The FAA, NTSB and SAPD will investigate the aircraft accident. The San Antonio Police Department has three other helicopters, which will enable the PD to continue providing air police support.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**